



SARRAH

Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health

11 January 2022

Committee Secretary
State Development and Regional Industries Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Email: sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au

Queensland - Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021: SARRAH comment

Thank you for inviting Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH) to comment on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 currently being considered by the State Development and Regional Industries Committee of the Queensland Parliament. SARRAH welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Bill.

SARRAH is the peak body representing rural and remote allied health professionals (AHPs) working in the public, private and community sectors, across primary and other health settings, disability, aged care, and other service systems. SARRAH was established in 1995 by and as a network of rurally based allied health professionals and continues to advocate on behalf of rural and remote communities to improve access to allied health services and support equitable and sustainable health and well-being. SARRAH maintains that every Australian should have access to health services wherever they live and that allied health services are fundamental to the well-being of all Australians.

Our comments focus only on the proposed amendments to the ***Hospital and Health Boards Act*** – which are to *enable allied health professionals to access The Viewer and allow certain designated persons and prescribed health professionals to disclose confidential information to a person performing functions under the Mental Health Act 2016.*

We note in introducing the Bill to Parliament the Minister advised the proposed amendments would

“...further improve the transfer of patients from acute care to the community care setting and to achieve the best possible health outcomes and quality of life for patients, the bill will expand access to the Viewer to allied health professionals who are not required to be registered under the health practitioner regulation national law. These additional categories of allied health

professionals must be prescribed in regulation before they can access the Viewer. It is intended to prescribe audiologists, social workers, dietitians, speech pathologists, exercise physiologists, orthoptists, orthotists and prosthetists. These groups are all appropriately regulated and routinely work with Queensland Health during the transfer of patient care between acute and community settings."

SARRAH fully supports the intention of the amendments and believes they are consistent with other efforts to enable greater patient-centred health care and service delivery between health professionals, facilitate more integrated multidisciplinary care and improve transitions and continuity of care across and between the multiple settings individuals may receive care. The proposed amendments will remove an impediment to effective team based care and promote the broader objectives of the Bill.

We also note, the proposed amendment will make a positive contribution to addressing the issues currently being considered by the Queensland Parliament's Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system, being conducted by the Health and Environment Committee.

Thank you again for inviting SARRAH to contribute to this important work. If you would like to clarify or discuss any of these issues or would like further information, please contact Allan Groth on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Cath Maloney
Chief Executive Officer